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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,200	08/07/2001	Quintin T. Phillips	10002608-1	2177

7590 07/31/2002

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
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EXAMINER

BEATTY, ROBERT B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2852

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/924,200

Applicant(s)

PHILLIPS ET AL.

Examiner

Robert Beatty

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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1. Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 13, lines 11-13, the cartridge being inserted into the opening while the door is closed is not understood.

See also claim 20.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3,6,10-14,16,19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsunaga (JP#04-184464).

Matsunaga teach an imaging system comprising a plurality of consumable replaceable toner cartridges 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D which are insertable into an opening in the imaging system via a guide and gear system 10A-10D and 23,22,19. The plurality of cartridges are mounted in a rotatable carousel having a door 30. If a toner end detection is detected via sensor 24,25, a cartridge is automatically ejected out of the image forming system from the opening.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4-5,15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunaga (JP# 04-184464) in view of Tani et al.

Matsunaga taught supra discloses everything claimed except a display which will display the toner end signal. Tani et al. teach an imaging system having a replaceable toner cartridge 27 insertable into an opening 23a. When it is detected by a sensor 22 that a toner is nearly depleted, a message on a display will inform the operator to supply toner. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display a toner end signal to the operator because the operator can be informed of the status of the imaging system.

4. Claims 1,6-9,13,16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitajima et al. in view of Kasamura et al.

Kitajima et al. teach an imaging system comprising a plurality of replaceable toner cartridges 1, a plurality of openings 2, and guides (such as the walls of the openings) which guide the cartridge into an in-use position. Specifically, Kitajima et al. teach everything claimed except the cartridges and openings having registration

key/fin mechanisms which allow an appropriate cartridge to be loaded. Kasamura et al. teach an imaging system having a replaceable toner cartridge 32 which is insertable into an opening 23a in the imaging system. The cartridge has a fin 33 which mates with a slot 24 of the opening so that an appropriate cartridge can be inserted into the system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cartridges in Kitajima et al. with the fin/slot mechanism in Kasamura et al. because containers having different color toner can always be inserted in the correct dispensing location.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kohtani et al., Nishimura et al., Morita et al., Fukuchi et al., Abe et al. all teach replaceable containers that are automatically inserted or ejected from an imaging system.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Beatty whose telephone number is 703-308-1372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley, can be reached on (703) 308-1373. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-3431.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Beatty', is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Beatty  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2852

July 26, 2002